PLAYBOY'S PLAYMATE REVIEW

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FOURTH ANNUAL
112-PAGE
ROUNDUP OF
THE PAST YEAR'S
DELIGHTFUL
DOZEN

PLAYBOY'S

PLAYMATE REVIEW

PLAYBOY PRESS

They say time flies when you're having fun, and it must be true. Back when we were readying the first of these *Playboy's Playmate Review* volumes for Playboy Press, the magazine's staff was just catching its collective breath from dealing with the tremendous response to our 30th Anniversary Playmate Search. Penny Baker, Miss January 1984, won the title. Now we're publishing our fourth *Playmate Review* collection—and setting the machinery in motion for a 35th Anniversary Playmate Search. The competition is sure to be brisk; one only has to consider the quality of Playmates on view in a non-anniversary year, like the one just past. From January's Luann Lee through December's India Allen, who earned Playmate of the Year honors, each is a beauty—and each very much an individual. As may be expected in a group of women noteworthy for their looks, several are working as models. But 1987 also brought us a world-traveling coed, a blushing bride, a potential soap-opera star, a singer, a budding radio personality, an entrepreneur who's making her mark in fashion design, and an actress/political worker/theatrical producer all wrapped up in one gorgeous bundle from Britain. Say hello again to the past year's delightful dozen.

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LUANN LEE page 4

JULIE PETERSON page 14

MARINA BAKER page 22

ANNA CLARK page 30

KYMBERLY PAIGE page 38

SANDY GREENBERG page 46

CARMEN BERG page 54

SHARRY KONOPSKI page 64

GWENDOLYN HAJEK page 74

BRANDI BRANDT page 84

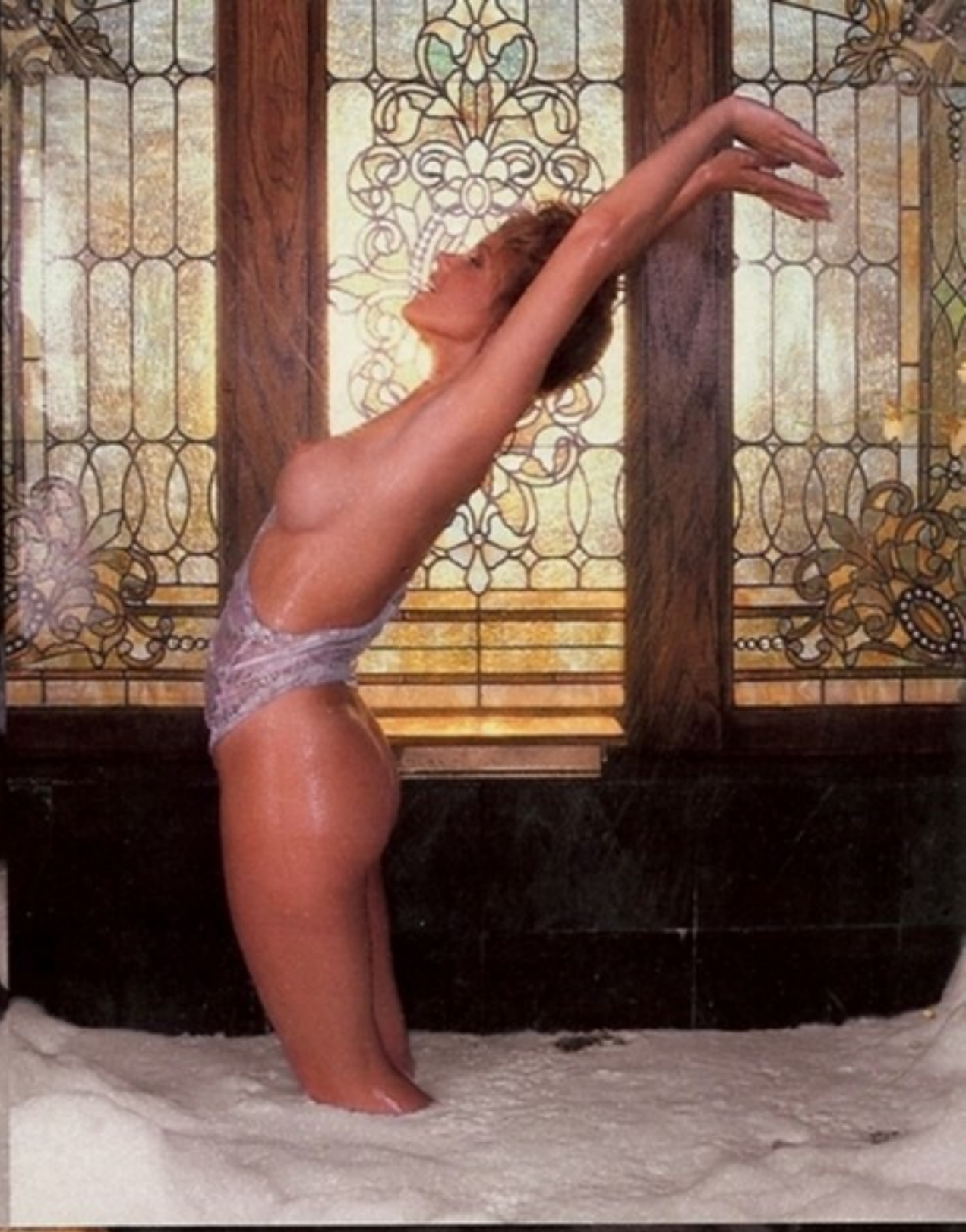
PAMELA STEIN page 94

INDIA ALLEN page 102

MISS JANUARY

Luann LEE

Early last fall, a *Playboy* editor described Luann as "a financial wheeler-dealer who invests in commodities the way other Playmates invest in scarves." That was before October 19, 1987. "I pretty much lost my fanny" in the market crash, she told us. "Now I've moved into putting my money in the bank." Luann hasn't had much time to mope over her losses, however. She has posed for posters—Suzuki and Budweiser come to mind—and has taken a European holiday. She joined the Playboy's Girls of Rock & Roll troupe last year, spent eight weeks in Reno and much of the rest of the year in Las Vegas with the group. "We made a trip to Hawaii, too, to sing at an air force base and some clubs." During those gigs, Luann sang "mostly Whitney Houston-type stuff," but she describes her pop-rock style as "more like Madonna." Determined to make it in music, Luann is studying singing and acting and has acquired a personal weight trainer and a financial backer who'll help her get some demos made. She's elated by the sales of her Playmate *Video Centerfold*, which sold more than 60,000 copies in the first 20 days.



MISS FEBRUARY

Julie PETERSON

Just graduated from the Academy of Radio Broadcasting in Huntington Beach, California, Julie is well on her way to a career in communications. She may be an on-air personality or work behind the scenes. "I'm good at writing copy and commercials," she says. "And I plan to do some articles for women's magazines on the subject of the Nineties woman. It's time for her to make her appearance." Just who is this woman? "One who knows that sexuality is not a body type; it's an attitude." Meanwhile, she's having a ball. "I just bought my first car, a BMW, and got my first apartment, in Beverly Hills. So I'm not eating a lot." Julie loved the Playmate Phone-In. "There was one 13-year-old boy from Dallas who called and asked me, very seriously, 'Miss Peterson, how many times have you gone all the way?' So I told him about waiting till you're older, how then it should be 'making love,' not 'going all the way,' and got something in there about safe sex. His parents are going to wonder about that phone bill, but I thought it was important to talk to him."

reebok

MISS MARCH

Marina BAKER

We were impressed with Marina's performance in the TV miniseries *Casanova*, opposite Richard Chamberlain. Turns out, though, that that was but one of many enterprises keeping this British bird busy during the year. "I formed my own group, the Blue Hat Theatre Company, and took it to the Edinburgh Festival, where we presented Sam Shepard's *The Tooth of Crime*. It was a wonderful experience for me to do everything from organizing press conferences to booking accommodations. The hours were excruciatingly long, but I felt I had really accomplished something on my own." During Great Britain's 1987 general elections, she volunteered to work for the Liberal Party, programming canvasses in a constituency in Cambridgeshire. Has she political aspirations of her own? Marina laughs. "I'd love to be an MP," she says, "but I don't think they're ready for me in England. I really think a Playmate would have more chance of being elected President in the United States than of becoming an MP in the United Kingdom."

MISS APRIL

Anna CLARK

Miss April is a young woman who sets definite goals and pursues them relentlessly. When interviewed for her Playmate story, she was planning a round-the-world tour. By the time her issue got to the newsstands, she was off and running, hitting Australia, Singapore, Thailand, India, Egypt, Kenya, Greece and The Netherlands before heading back to California. Playboy Channel subscribers joined Anna, vicariously, on part of her vacation: Her televised Playmate story focused on adventures in Australia. Anna made friends as well as videotape during her stay Down Under; some of her support in the Playmate Phone-In came from Sydney. Even before Anna left on her journey, she announced that on her return home she'd concentrate on her education, with an eye to being accepted at the University of California's Berkeley campus, where she wants to major in marketing. Currently enrolled at Grossmont College in El Cajon, near San Diego, she figures she'll be ready to tackle Berkeley by the end of summer school this year.

MISS MAY

Kymberly PAIGE

"My life is just going incredibly well," says Kym. Her line of leather-patched denim separates—garments that can be worn either as pants or as a jacket—is selling like those proverbial hotcakes. Kym's label is 2KOOL, with a little bridge over the top of the O's that makes them look like a pair of sunglasses. "Up to now, they've been one-of-a-kind items selling in novelty stores. Now I'm working on mass marketing hand-painted 2KOOL pants." Kym has been designing, manufacturing and selling everything herself; she's now considering working with a large company. "I can't keep doing all of it myself." So what has she been doing for fun? "*This* is what I've been doing for fun," she replies with a laugh. "I've also been taking classes in fashion sketching and pattern making at UCLA. I had thought of studying fashion when I got out of high school, but I started modeling instead. And now this. I firmly believe you can do what you want to if you put your mind to it. I'm not the most book-smart person there is, but I'm a very creative one."

MISS JUNE

Sandy GREENBERG

Sandy is getting maximum mileage out of everything—especially her frequent-flight program, as she buzzes around the country on modeling and Playboy promotional assignments. Consider what happened after she appeared in the magazine's January 1987 issue as Maxine Legroom, *Playboy*'s "computer-generated" companion for TV's Max Headroom. Sandy parlayed that one into a Playboy Channel segment and a rock video. Then her Playmate picture story showed Sandy with one of her five BMW motorcycles. Presto: Sandy is named BMW spokeswoman, appearing on posters and in person to represent the popular two-wheelers. She has come a long way from St. Louis, as the old song has it; she's settled in the Los Angeles area, where, she assures us, "I still enjoy riding motorcycles. In fact, my new California lifestyle seems to suit me quite well." Lately she has been devoting attention to photography and hopes to have a collection of black-and-white prints ready for exhibit in the spring of 1989.

MISS JULY

Carmen BERG

"I'm sorry I didn't get back to you sooner," said Carmen after we'd left our fourth message on her answering machine. "I've just been *real* busy. I don't even have time for boyfriends anymore!" That sounded implausible. "It's true," she assured us. "None of them likes to stick around because I'm mostly out of town weekends." Carmen, now a confirmed Chicagoan, represents Playboy at car shows and other events. She flies to New York and Los Angeles mainly to pose for print and video lingerie catalogs. But what really keeps her busy is her modeling career in the Windy City. "I'm not tall enough for fashion," she explains, "but I do a lot of work for Montgomery Ward and Sears—catalogs and those advertising supplements they put in Sunday newspapers. It's not as glamorous as posing for *Playboy*, but it pays the rent." We pulled a Ward's insert from our Sunday paper and, sure enough, there was Carmen, looking great in a powder-blue bra. Now we'll have something to look for besides the comics every weekend.

MISS AUGUST

Sharry KONOPSKI

She's still in Kelso, Washington, with a house full of cats—ten at last count—her dog, Bear, and, by the time you read this, a husband, a car salesman she met a year and a half ago at the pizza parlor where she worked. When we spoke, Sharry was getting ready to make her wedding dress. "I'm making myself a Southern-belle gown with taffeta and lace, and I'm going to bead the lace." We asked Sharry where she picked up her dressmaking skills. "I was raised by my grandma and my great-grandmother, and they taught me to sew and quilt and knit," she explained. "I want to go to college and major in fashion design and interior decoration some day." One of her Playmate promotional appearances was at a fashion show in Montreal, "but I don't speak any French so I couldn't understand half of what they were saying." She had more fun at a car show in Denver: "They had a really nice '56 black-on-black hardtop Chevy I'd give my eyeteeth and both my legs for. Or maybe not. I've got a closet full of shoes and I wouldn't be able to wear them!"

Gwendolyn HAJEK

Working out her hostilities, Hollywood-style, was something Gwen had a chance to do in her very first movie appearance. "It was a small part, a girl wearing a hot-pink bathing suit, in *Traxx*," she told us. "But I got to slap this guy in the scene—three times, by the time we got it right." Gwen has deserted Louisiana and Arkansas and, like many Playmates before her, headed for La La Land—even though she feared the natives wouldn't be as friendly as down-homers are. "I really like it in Southern California," she says. "Especially the people. Everybody has a different attitude, a different aura, out here. They're so geared toward success that it makes you want to work hard. I haven't met anybody who's *awful*; everybody's been really helpful." Miss September has only one genuine complaint about Los Angeles: "The cost of living is pretty steep." Angelenos, meanwhile, had been complaining to her about the weather. "We've been having an unusually cold spell," Gwen observed. "Funny—when the temperature gets down to 40 degrees, people are freaking out and wearing their fur coats! I couldn't believe it!"

MISS OCTOBER

Brandi BRANDT

A girl just starting out in Hollywood can get some pretty strange job assignments. Take Brandi's gig posing for the cover of *Blue Monday*, a horror-movie video cassette. "It's about a big killer ant." Of course. Being Brandi, though, she has more promising things going. A small part in *The Running Kind*, for example. "My mom is the star of the movie." Mom—rocker Brie Howard—has been doing as much acting as she has singing lately. Brandi plans to follow that road, too: "I must have audited something like 50 different acting classes, but I haven't found the perfect one yet." With several other Playmates, Brandi backed up comic Joe Piscopo on his HBO Halloween special; she also joined Veronica Gamba, Miss November 1983, and Playmate of the Year 1984 Barbara Edwards in an *Eye on L.A.* TV segment featuring Reebok clothing and sneakers: "We were three girls dancing in a junkyard." Her liveliest assignment, hands down, was a visit to Chico State University, named the country's number one party school in a *Playboy* survey.

MISS NOVEMBER

Pamela STEIN

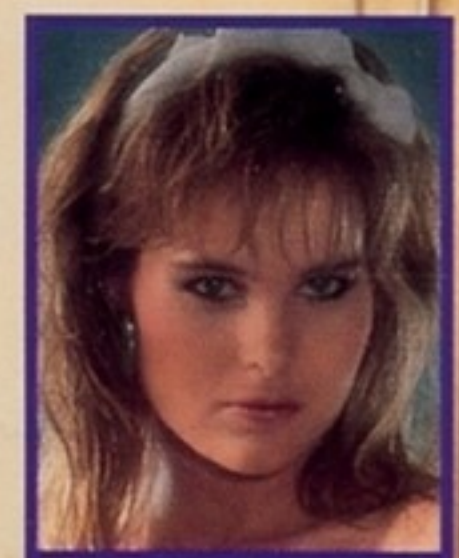
On her Playmate Data Sheet, Pam wrote that she'd like to star in a soap opera. She may get the chance: A producer of *One Life to Live*, reading the magazine, popped for a trip to New York and a script reading. "I'd have to relocate to New York and study acting," Pam reports, "but they say they'll work me into the show if I do." Since she has been interviewed twice for a veejay spot on MTV, which also tapes in the Big Apple, she could be making that move soon. She's not just sitting around waiting for something to happen, though. Her poster for Starmakers, featuring Miss November in a man's white T-shirt, is now on the market, and she's been traveling on Playboy promotions. So far, she has been to Toronto, Kansas City, Chicago, Indianapolis and "pretty much all over Florida." When she arrives back home in Tampa, she's greeted with huge bundles of fan mail. "I didn't expect anything like this—hundreds and hundreds of letters," she says. "My mom looked at them and said, 'Wow! You *are* a celebrity!' "

CRAFTSMAN

MISS DECEMBER

India ALLEN

"Surprised? I walked around in a state of shock for a whole month!" says India Allen of her response to the news that she'd been chosen Playmate of the Year for 1988. "I almost held my breath for 30 days because I wasn't supposed to tell anybody. I finally *did* tell my fiancé, and guess what he said? 'Now you won't have to drive a Yugo anymore!'" India was presented with a custom-built California Countach Roadster from Exotic Dream Machines; with the $100,000 check that she received from Playboy, she's all fixed for years of fill-ups. One person who wasn't surprised by the selection was her mother, the psychic. And her father actually worked to make it happen. "After my Playmate story appeared, my Dad called me and told me my pictures were beautiful and that he was so proud his seams were bursting. During the Playmate Phone-In, he voted for me 40 times!" If you want to see more of India, stop by your local video store and pick up her *Playboy Video Centerfold Special Edition: Playmate of the Year*, now on sale.



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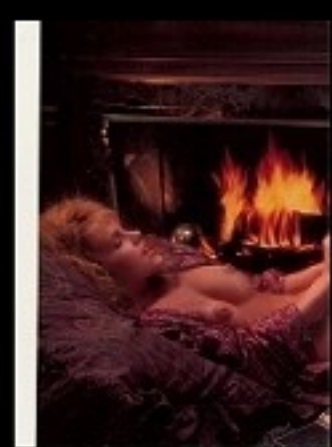
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TechScan - Playboy 1988 Playmate Review 2/5

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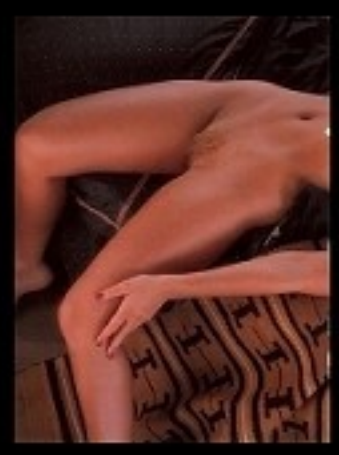
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TechScan - Playboy 1988 Playmate Review 3/5

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TechScan - Playboy 1988 Playmate Review 4/5

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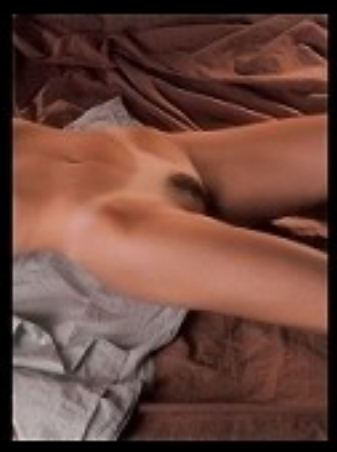
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TechScan - Playboy 1988 Playmate Review 5/5

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